## Message Text

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**NODIS** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR, US, CSCE

SUBJECT: LUDMILLA GINZBURG'S LETTER TO MRS. LILLIAN CARTER,

- 1. MRS. LUDMILLA GINZBURG, MOTHER OF IMPRISONED SOVIET "HELSINKI" GROUP MONITOR ALEKSANDR GINZBURG, HAS WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S MOTHER, ACQUAINTING HER OF HER SON'S SITUATION AND REQUESTING HER HELP. (TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:,
- 2. "D 'MRS. LILIAN CARTER:

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3. I AWRITING YOU NOT ONLY AS THE MOTHER YOU HAS GIVEN THE WORLD SUCH A REMARKABLE SON. I AM WRITING YOU AS A PERSON WHO HAS GIVEN MANY YEARS TO MERCIFUL ACTIVITIES. AND FINALLY I AM WRITING YOU SIMPLY AS A WOMAN WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD AND THE GRIEF OF LOSSES.

- 3. "AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST FEBRUARY, A YEAR HAD PASSED SINCE MY SON ALEXANDER GINZBURG'S THIRD ARREST. HE IS 41 YEARS OLD, AND BY NOW HE ALREADY HAS SPENT EIGHT AND ONE-HALF OF THESE YEARS IN SOVIET CAMPS AND JAILS. NOW OUR AUTHORITIES ARE FAPRICATING A NEW MONSTROUS VERDICT AGAINST HIM, SO THAT HE MAY WELL HAVE TO SPEND FIFTEEN ADDITIONAL YEARS IN THAT HELL.
- 4. "IN THE COURSE OF THE PAST YEARS I HAVE BEEN THROUGH SEVEN SEARCHES, WITH STRANGE PEOPLE RUMMAGING THROUGH MY LINEN, MY DOCUMENTS AND MY BOOKS. I HAVE HAD TO SUBMIT TO MANY QUESTIONINGS, THEY YELLED AT ME AND ORDERED ME TO TESTIFY AGAINST MY SON AND HIS FRIENDS. I REMEMBER OUR SHORT INTERVIEWS IN JAIL, HIS RARE LETTERS FROM THE FORCED LABOR CAMP, MY FEAR FOR MY SON'S FATE, BECAUSE, IN ADDITION TO ALL THE REST OF IT, HE IS A VERY SICK MAN. I AM NOW WAITING FOR HIM FOR THETHIRD TIME. I AM 70, I AM A SICK WOMAN AND I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER I SHALL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
- 5. "MY SON HAS TWO LITTLE CHILDREN. HIS ELDEST, SANYA, IS FIVE, THE YOUNGER ONE, ALYOSHA, IS THREE. THEY WAIT FOR HIM TO COME BACK. THEY REMEMBER HIM. THEY DRAW PICTURES FOR HIM. THEY WRITE HIM LETTERS WHICH HE WILL NEVER READ, BECAUSE HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO RECEIVE LETTERS IN JAIL.

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- 6. "MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW IRINA USED TO BE A TEACHER AT THE MOSCOW UNIVERSITY. SHE HAS LOST HER JOB THERE. AFTER MANY EFFORTS SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT AS A CLEANING WOMAN IN A FRIENDLY HOME. AFTER MY SON'S ARREST SHE TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHER COURAGEOUS PERSONS TOOK UPON THEM THE CONTINUATION OF HIS TASK: DISPENSING CHARITABLE HELP TO SOVIET POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. MY SON IS BEHIND BARS BECAUSE HE WAS HELPING SUCH UNHAPPY PEOPLE TO SURVIVE. HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE FACT THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO PERSECUTION BECAUSE OF SUCH ACTIVITY. INDEED, THIS IS WHAT HAS HAPPENED. I DO NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH ANY MORE TO SILENTLY WATCH MY SON PERISH AND HIS FAMILY SUFFER. I BEG YOU, LISTEN TO ME AND HELP ME SAVE MY SON. WITH DEEP RESPECT, (SIGNED) LUDMILA GINZBURG."
- 7. AT APPROPRIATE OCCASION EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GINZBURG FAMILY THAT A) MRS. LUDMILLA GINZBURG'S LETTER HAS BEEN PASSED TO MRS. LILLIAN CARTER, B) MRS. CARTER HAS ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY ASSURE MRS. GINZBURG THAT SHE STRONGLY SYMPATHIZES WITH HER AND HER SON AND THAT C) MRS. CARTER WILL HAVE ALEKSANDR GINZBURG IN HER THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Sheryl P. Walter	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	20 Mar 2014
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Subject: LUDMILLA GINZBURG\'S LETTER TO MRS. LILLIAN CARTER

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